APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/675,919	09/30/2003	Udo Klein	16104-010001 / 2003P00683	2088

			EXAMINER
32864	7590	08/03/2006	WONG, NOBLE S

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2179	

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/675,919	KLEIN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Noble S. Wong	2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _30 September 2003_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-18_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-18_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _5/19/05 & 1/13/04_.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1.   Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: "was" is not in correct grammatical form: "<u>the first and second panels</u> **was** closed". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3.   Claims 1-5, 8, 12-16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McCormack et al. (US Patent # 6,243,088).

As to independent claim 1, McCormack discloses a method of successively displaying panels in a computer user interface, the method comprising:

- displaying a first panel (i.e. panel 208) of a plurality of panels (panels 206-226) in a computer user interface (i.e. application program see col. 6 line 7), each of the panels including different information (i.e. see col. 6 lines 61-67) and the computer user interface having a plurality of navigation controls (next button 250, previous button 252 and cancel button 254) by which a user can navigate to any one of the panels to access its information, wherein a first setting (i.e. task 230 then next button 250) of the navigation controls causes the first panel to be displayed (i.e. see col. 6 lines 55-60);

- receiving a user input (through input device 114 or cursor control 116) requesting access to information (i.e. see col. 6 lines 61-67) on a second panel (i.e. panel 210) in the computer user interface, there being at least two different settings of the navigation controls (next button 250 and previous button 252) that will cause the second panel to be displayed; and

- ceasing to display the first panel and displaying the second panel using one of the at least two different settings (i.e. from panel 208, clicking on next button 250) by which more of the navigation controls remain unchanged (i.e. still in task 230 see col. 6 lines 7-21) from the first setting.

As to independent claim 15, claim 15 differs from claim 1 only in that claim 15 is an apparatus claim using a computer program product (storage device 110) containing executable instructions that when executed cause a processor (processor 104) to perform steps where as claim 1 is a method claim. Thus, claim 15 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 above.

As to dependent claim 2, McCormack teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of panels is arranged in a hierarchy (i.e. see Fig. 2) comprising nodes (main screen 202 and panels 206-226), and wherein the panels are located at a bottom of the hierarchy (panels 212 and 226), and wherein the navigation controls (i.e. tasks 230-234) allow the user to navigate by taking different paths (i.e. see col. 6 lines 22-60) in the hierarchy of nodes.

As to dependent claim 3, McCormack teaches the method of claim 2, wherein the first setting of the navigation controls correspond to a first path (task 230 though panels 206-212) in the hierarchy of nodes and wherein the at least two settings (tasks 230-234) of the navigation controls for causing display of the second panel (panels 206 or 214) correspond to respective at least two paths (task 230 for panels 206-212 and task 232 for panels 214 to 212) in the hierarchy of paths, and wherein the one path taken to the second panel is one having a lowest common node (panel 212) with the first path taken to the first panel.

As to dependent claim 4, McCormack teaches the method of claim 2, wherein the first panel (panel 206) and the second panel (panel 214) are at a common level in the hierarchy.

As to dependent claim 5, McCormack teaches the method of claim 2, wherein the first panel (panel 206) and the second panel (panel 216) are at different levels in the hierarchy.

As to dependent claim 8, McCormack teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the user entered the information on the second panel (panel 214 by task 232) before the first panel (by task 230 panel 206) was displayed, and wherein displaying the second panel provides the user access to the entered information (i.e. see col. 6 lines 61-67).

As to dependent claim 12, McCormack teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of panels is arranged in a system of nodes that does not form a tree (i.e. Fig. 2 shows nodes in a directed graph), and wherein the navigation controls allow the user to navigate by taking different paths (i.e. tasks 230 - 234) in the hierarchy of nodes.

As to dependent claim 13, McCormack teaches the method of claim 12, wherein the first setting (task 232) of the navigation controls correspond to a first path (to panel 210) in the hierarchy of nodes and wherein the at least two settings (i.e. through task 230 or task 232) of the navigation controls for causing display of the second panel (panel 212) correspond to respective at least two paths in the hierarchy of nodes, and wherein the one of the at least two paths to the second panel is used that has a common node (panel 210) with the first path to the first panel that is nearest the first panel (panel 206) (i.e. one path is though task 230 and another is through task 232. They both lead to panel 212 with a common node, panel 210).

As to dependent claim 14, McCormack teaches method of claim 13, wherein identifying (i.e. program knew that the user was on panel 218 when it is on panel 210 see col. 6 lines 29-38) the common node [, which] involves beginning with those of the nodes that are nearest the second panel in the system of nodes, and determining (i.e. see col. 6 lines 29-38) whether any of these nodes are common with any node in the first path.

As to dependent claim 16, McCormack teaches the computer program product of claim 15, wherein the plurality of panels is arranged in a hierarchy comprising nodes (i.e. see Fig. 2), and wherein the panels (panels 212 and 226) are located at a bottom of the hierarchy, and wherein the navigation

controls (using next button 250 and previous button 252) allow the user to navigate by taking different

paths in the hierarchy of nodes wherein the first setting (task 230 to panel 210) of the navigation controls

correspond to a first path in the hierarchy of nodes and wherein the at least two settings (task 230 and task

232 to panel 210) of the navigation controls for causing display of the second panel (task 232 to panel

212) correspond to respective at least two paths in the hierarchy of paths, further comprising instructions

that when executed cause the processor to: display the second panel using the one (task 230 to panel 212)

of the at least two paths that has a lowest common node with the first path taken to the first panel.

As to dependent claim 18, McCormack teaches the computer program product of claim 15,

wherein the panels are arranged in a system of nodes that does not form a tree (i.e. Fig. 2 shows nodes in

a directed graph), and wherein the navigation controls allow the user to navigate by taking different paths

(i.e. tasks 230 - 234) in the hierarchy of nodes, further comprising instructions that when executed cause

the processor to: begin with nodes (panel 212) nearest the second panel (through task 232 panel 212) and

determine (i.e. see col. 6 lines 29-38) whether any of these nodes are common with any node in a path by

which the first panel (though task 230 panel 210) was reached.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCormack et al.

(US Patent # 6,243,088) in view of Ulder (US Patent Application Publication # 2005/0010877).

As to dependent claim 6, McCormack teaches the method of claim 2 (see claim 2 above), but does not teach wherein the navigation controls comprise tab sets each comprising a plurality of tabs, and tab set selection tabs for selecting between the tab sets, wherein a first tab is capable of triggering display of the first panel and at least a second tab and a third tab are capable of triggering display of the second panel. Ulder teaches wherein the navigation controls comprise tab sets each comprising a plurality of tabs (plurality of tabs 218), and tab set selection tabs (application subdivision tabs 221) for selecting between the tab sets, wherein a first tab is capable of triggering display of the first panel and at least a second tab and a third tab are capable of triggering display of the second panel (i.e. "Application subdivision tabs 221 are located at the top of bottom frame 206 and provide a mechanism for tabbing between hierarchical trees within an application area," see [0026]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the tabs of Ulder in place of the navigational controls of McCormack to "allow structured or hierarchical data presentation" (i.e. see [0021] and [0003] to provide data to be "dynamically constructed").

As to dependent claim 7, McCormack teaches the method of claim 6 (see claim 6 above), but does not teach wherein one of the second and third tabs that is part of a common tab set with the first tab is used to display the second view. Ulder teaches wherein one of the second and third tabs that is part of a common tab set (application subdivision tabs 221) with the first tab is used to display the second view (i.e. "Application subdivision tabs 221 are located at the top of bottom frame 206 and provide a mechanism for tabbing between hierarchical trees within an application area," see [0026]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the tabs of Ulder in place of the navigational controls of McCormack to "allow structured or hierarchical data presentation" (i.e. see [0021] and [0003] to provide data to be "dynamically constructed")

6.   Claims 9, 10, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCormack

et al. (US Patent # 6,243,088) in view of Aiken et al. (US Patent # 6,341,359).

As to dependent claim 9, McCormack teaches the method of claim 8 (see claim 8 above), wherein

the determination (i.e. see col. 6 lines 29-38) of which of the at least two settings of the navigation

controls to use for displaying the second panel (panel 210), but does not teach wherein an analysis of the

information entered on the second panel prompted dispatch of a message relating to the entered

information, the message containing a link to the second panel, wherein activating the link triggers the

determination. Aiken teaches wherein an analysis (by diagnostics see col. 9 lines 59 – col. 10 line 12) of

the information (in name field 314) entered on the second panel prompted dispatch of a message (in

diagnosis view 602) relating to the entered information, the message containing a link (show button 610)

to the second panel (i.e. parameter dialogue box 306), wherein activating the link triggers the

determination.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to have used the information analysis as taught by Aiken in place of the method of McCormack

to fill in "a need for a computer interface that validates user-entered data and provides the user with

timely, diagnostic information on a field by field basis," (see col. 2 lines 26-29).

As to dependent claim 10, McCormack teaches the method of claim 9 (see claim 9 above), but

does not teach wherein the message is one selected from the group consisting of: an error message, a

warning message, an informational message, a confirmation message, and combinations thereof. Aiken

teaches wherein the message is one selected from the group consisting of: an error message, a warning

message, an informational message, a confirmation message, and combinations thereof (i.e. see Fig. 6, for

constraint violations col. 9 line 59 – col. 10 line 12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to have used the information analysis as taught by Aiken in place of the determining of

McCormack to fill in "a need for a computer interface that validates user-entered data and provides the user with timely, diagnostic information on a field by field basis," (see col. 2 lines 26-29).

As to dependent claim 17, McCormack teaches the computer program product of claim 15 (see claim 15 above), further comprising instructions that when executed cause the processor to: [execute a] determination (i.e. see col. 6 lines 29-38) of which of the at least two settings of the navigation controls to use for displaying the second panel (panel 210), but does not teach that the instructions when executed cause the processor to: dispatch a message relating to information entered by the user on the second panel, the message containing a link to the second panel that when activated triggers a determination. Aiken teaches instructions that when executed cause the processor to: dispatch a message (in diagnosis view 602) relating to information (in name field 314) entered by the user on the second panel (i.e. parameter dialogue box 306), the message containing a link (show button 610) to the second panel that when activated triggers a determination.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the dispatching a message relating to information as taught by Aiken in place the instructions executed by a processor of McCormack to fill in "a need for a computer interface that validates user-entered data and provides the user with timely, diagnostic information on a field by field basis," (see col. 2 lines 26-29).

7.   Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCormack et al. (US Patent # 6,243,088) in view of Microsoft (Windows XP, Microsoft Support Article, ID #320168).

As to dependent claim 11, McCormack teaches the method of claim 8, but does not teach wherein an application program that includes the first and second panels was closed after the information was entered, and wherein the application program is opened before receiving the request to display the second panel, wherein displaying the second panel allows the user access to the information that was entered before the application program was closed. Microsoft teaches wherein an application program (i.e. a

Windows user session) that includes the first (i.e. Explorer window for folder 1) and second panels (i.e.

Explorer window for folder 2) as closed (i.e. when logging off closing the user's session) when after the

information (i.e. when creating a new file) was entered, and wherein the application program is opened

before receiving the request to display the second panel, wherein displaying the second panel allows the

user access to the information that was entered before the application program was closed (i.e. upon

logging on, Windows remembers what Explorer window was opened before the session was closed, so it

can "Restore previous folder windows at logon" see Article).

Conclusion

8.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

•   Henderson, Jr. et al (US Patent # 5,072,412) discloses a system that includes workspaces with

    windows data in a hierarchical structure and an application with a tabbed interface.

•   Slavin et al. (US Patent # 6,675,193) discloses a system that keeps track of an application last used

    stored in a settings file (see col. 9 line 60 – col. 10 line 15).

Inquiries

9.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should

be directed to Noble S. Wong whose telephone number is (571) 270-1044. The examiner can normally be

reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

          If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

Chanh Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-7772. The fax phone number for the organization where this

application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application

Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained

from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available

through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-

direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer

Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR

CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Noble Wong

18 July 2006

SHUWANG LIU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER